



City of Kosciusko

Kosciusko, Mississippi

JIMMY W. COCKROFT
MAYOR

ALDERMEN
BILLY COFFEE
TIM COOK
DATWIN DABBS
G. M. "MAC" GALLASPY
JOHN SULLIVAN

August 30, 2000

Secretary Rodney E. Slater
Department of Transportation
Attn: Docket Clerk
Docket No. 97-2350
Room PL-401
400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590-001



RE: Docket No. FMCSA-97- 2350-21028

Dear Mr. Slater:

Recently the U.S. Department of Transportation has proposed rules that cause me great concerns for the safety of the citizens of our community. As the Mayor of Kosciusko, I am responsible for the safety of the nearly 7000 residents here. As drafted the USDOT rules would restrict the hours that the Kosciusko Water and Light utility workers can operate during an emergency.

I believe utility workers should get the same exemptions the department proposes for police and firefighters. In our city, utility workers are a vital key to meeting the needs of our emergency services. The men of our power company protect our homes from power outages, keep our children safe when an accident downs power lines and allows the fire department to quickly contain and control fires.

On several occasions this year we have had power outages due to ice in the winter months and high winds at other times of the year which affected a great number of our people. During the winter when we have ice storms, many lives are endangered to the suffering from extreme cold. This emergency truly would be devastating to our children and elderly alike and it is the utility employees that work day and night to restore the power to heat our homes.

To restrict the hours of operations for utilities would be a terrible injustice to the citizens of our communities. I urge the USDOT to exempt workers as it exempts other necessary emergency personnel.

Sincerely,

Jimmy W. Cockroft, Mayor
City of Kosciusko

cc. Sen. Thad Cochran
Sen. Trent Lott
Rep. Chip Pickering

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
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